

COMMUNICATION

The following letter has been received by Mr. Arthur Stevens, President of the Cochrane Board of Trade:

Kapuskasing, Ont.

March 17th, 1920.

Mr. A. Stevens,

Cochrane, Ont.

Dear Sir,—

While Kapuskasing is being boosted (?) by the press and soldier settlers here, I thought you might be interested to hear from one of your recruits for North Ontario.

I should have written to you before this but I have been in bed with rheumatism and lumbago for the past month, and am just getting around again. I see by the papers that the Board of Trade and the G.W.V.A. of Cochrane are indignant over the statements regarding this part of the country that some of the settlers have seen fit to make. I want you to understand that you are not the only ones that feel annoyed at the false impression of the North that is being published all over Ontario. That is the reason I am writing this epistle.

First of all, let me say that all the settlers here are not of the same mind. Far from it. There are quite a lot of us that realize that the fault lies not so much in the country as in the class of men that are in it. Our colony is divided into two sections—the satisfied and the dissatisfied. Among the latter are some few that are not physically fit for the strenuous life of the bush settler. A lot of the remainder are men that may be strong enough but have no liking for life in the backwoods and have not the ambition and patience necessary to make a home in the North. There are others that appear to think that because the government brought them up here and assisted them in the first place that they should be spoon fed and their families supported for the remainder of their natural lives. The others in this class appear to me to be agitators that will never be any use in this or any other place.

By all means let the Government get rid of all that bunch.

And now for the satisfied class. There are quite a number of fellows that came up here, looked the scheme over, used common sense, were satisfied with the conditions, and settled right down to business. I am very pleased to say that all my neighbours are in this class. "Yorkville" is the only district here in Kapuskasing where the settlers are of one mind and can work together and live together without quarrelling between themselves.

We all started in with the intention of making good, have made satisfactory progress so far, and still have faith in the future and intend to stay with the game.

Scattered over the other districts are others that stand out among their neighbours as examples of what men can do that have the backbone and are not afraid of work.

Naturally, these fellows and the Yorkville bunch are not very well liked by the men that are self-confessed misfits and failures. We do not lose much sleep over that fact, however.

I was in bed when the Commission was here, but sent them a letter giving our side of the question, and stating that whatever the Government did for us, or did not do for us, we intended to stick right here and make good.

On Monday the 8th inst Mr. Nickle, Col. McLaren and Prof. Sharp came up to my house. I had six neighbours here with me, and we had a very interesting session. No reporter came with them however, and it seems very strange that the papers right through the investigation have printed and commented on only one side of the question.

At our little meeting we all made it quite plain that we wished to stay here and had faith in the future of Northern Ontario. Quite a number of other settlers who made similar statements are wondering why the press has ignored their testimony and give such pre-eminence to the tales of woe.

handed out by men who have proved unfit for the game of pioneering.

Of course, it is possible that part of the scheme of the gentlemen on the Commission is to hold out no hope of future help to the dissatisfied ones in order to get them out of here with as little expense as possible.

We hope so, and feel confident that in the near future this district will grow and keep pace with the progress and prosperity that Northern Ontario is sure to see.

Amen! to that for the present. I think you will see that all the settlers in our colony are not tarred with the same brush.

It is very probable that the Government store here will shortly be closed up. If so, there will be a good opening for a cash general store in this vicinity. I intend to keep an eye on developments here, and may run down and see you when the mess is cleaned up and things are straightened out again.

This has been a hard winter for work in the bush. The snow has been too deep for comfort. I got out about a hundred cords of pulpwood off my lot though, and should have done more if this this blamed rheumatism had left me alone.

I wintered twenty pullets, and in spite of the severe weather have not been a day without eggs this year. I hope to raise a lot of chicks this year, and as soon as possible intend to go in for poultry on a large scale. Mrs. York and the youngsters are in the best of health. This country agrees with them alright.

If you care to make the Board of Trade or G.W.V.A. acquainted with my statements regarding this place, I should be pleased to give them any further information they require.

Kind regards to all from Mrs. York and

Yours truly,
(sgd.) Wm. H. York.